

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-14

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S E C R E T STATE 198874

TOSEC 124

FOLLOWING REPEAT DIA WASHDC 051755Z ACTION USDAO TEL AVIV

INFO SECSTATE USCINCEUR USDAO AMMAN USDAO BEIRUT CAIRO

JERUSALEM 5 OCT

QUOTE

S E C R E T NO FOREIGN DISSEM EXCEPT ISRAEL 6463

FROM DI-5

SUBJ: SYRIAN/EGYPT BUILDUP (U)

REF: USDAO TEL AVIV 1474 OCT 73, DTG 050825Z OCT 73

1. (S/NFD) WE AGREE THAT FIVE PASSENGER AIRCRAFT MADE ROUND TRIPS FROM SOVIET UNION TO DAMASCUS 4-5 OCTOBER. HOWEVER, WE PRESENTLY KNOW OF ONLY FOUR PASSENGER AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR CAIRO. WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE INTENT OF THESE FLIGHTS AT THIS TIME.
2. (S/NFD) IN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF NORMAL TRAINING OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES, IT APPEARS THAT THE ALERT STATUS OF THOSE FORCES HAS BEEN RAISED AS THE CURRENT TRAINING EXERCISES PROGRESS. THE EXERCISES APPEAR DESIGNED TO TRAIN HIGHER HEADQUARTERS IN COMMAND AND CONTROL WITH LIMITED PARTICIPATION BY UNITS OF ALL SERVICES. THE EXERCISES DIRECT THE RESTIVE MILITARY FORCES TO MILITARY MATTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME IMPROVE SADAT'S GRIP ON THOSE FORCES. THEY ALSO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYED RECENTLY DEMOBILIZED PERSONNEL BY CALLING THEM BACK TO PARTICIPATE

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IN THE TRAINING. FURTHER, IT MAY WELL BE THAT A PERIPHERAL GOAL

IN THE CURRENT FLURRY OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IS TO PRESS THE US FOR A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE, THE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN SECTOR IN EGYPT AND THE LACK OF NORMAL INDICATORS OF INTENTIONS TO INITIATE MAJOR HOSTILITIES, WE DO NOT SEE AN OFFENSIVE INTENT ON THE PART OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES.

3. (S/NFD) WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE SYRIAN READINESS POSTURE IS PART OF NORMAL TRAINING ACTIVITY WHICH HAS BEEN ACCELERATED BY A REAL CONCERN FOR ISRAELI ATTACK BUT AT THE SAME TIME TO DEMONSTRATE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS TO THE SYRIAN PUBLIC IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 13 SEPTEMBER SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR ENGAGEMENT. IT STILL APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ACTIONS ARE COORDINATED AS THE EGYPTIAN TRAINING UNDOUBTEDLY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SUKHOI AIRCRAFT OPERATING OUT OF DUMAYR AT THIS TIME, BUT DID NOTE THEM THERE IN JUNE 1972. SUCH A DEPLOYMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE NORMAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE OVERALL INCREASED READINESS POSTURE WHICH CONTINUES TO APPEAR DEFENSIVE.XGD S
QUOTE RUSH

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